

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

May 30, 2006

AMENDMENT TO ITEM NUMBER 87

The CAO is recommending that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approve the separation of public health functions from the Department of Health Services. The Director of Public Health supports the establishment of a separate County Department of Public Health, citing that this is the best way to fulfill the public health mission to protect and improve the health of every resident throughout the County.

While I support the concept of separation, I have repeatedly expressed concerns about the management of our Public Health Clinics. For example, South Health Center which is located within my District and is located on 102nd Street in south Los Angeles provides important public health services on a limited basis. Most days it is open between 8 and 10:30 AM and 12:30 to 3:00 PM. Given this limited schedule, the clinic is only able to serve the first 20 patients on a first-come-first-serve basis. The extremely limited availability of services is especially concerning given the fact that the clinic is supposed to provide critical public health services in areas such as TB, STDs, and immunizations.

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

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There is another health service provider, Watts Health Center that is located nearby. Since Watts Health Center is already one of our PPP clinics and it is located 0.2 miles from South Health Center, I would like to explore the feasibility of expanding the existing partnership agreement. Watts is a primary care health provider, including an urgent care clinic, and offers a duplication of services provided at South Health Center.

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Director of Health Services to review the utilization rates for all of our Public Health Clinics, including South Health Center. Such review should include but not be limited to the number of patients seen annually, staffing pattern, hours of operation, budget, and services offered;

I, FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Director of Health Services to conduct a cost-benefit analysis and examine the feasibility of DHS partnering with the Watts Health Center to provide services currently being offered by South Health Center; and

FINALLY I MOVE THAT THIS BOARD:

Request the Director of DHS to report back with his findings and recommendations within thirty days.

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